

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An isolated antibody which recognizes the CNA19 peptide from *S. aureus*.
2. An antibody according to Claim 1, wherein said antibody is cross-reactive to both *S. aureus* and *S. epidermidis*.
3. An antibody according to Claim 1, wherein said antibody prevents *S. aureus* infection in a human or animal.
4. An antibody according to Claim 1, wherein said antibody prevents *S. epidermidis* infection in a human or animal.
5. An antibody according to Claim 1, wherein said antibody inhibits collagen binding of a staphylococcal bacteria selected from the group consisting of *S. aureus* and *S. epidermidis*.
6. An antibody according to Claim 1, wherein said antibody inhibits the binding of a both *S. aureus* and *S. epidermidis* to collagen.

7. An antibody according to Claim 1, wherein said antibody is suitable for parenteral, oral, intranasal, subcutaneous, or intravenous administration in a human or animal.
8. An antibody according to Claim 1 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
9. An antibody according to Claim 1 wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.
10. Isolated antisera containing an antibody according to Claim 1.
11. An isolated antibody according to Claim 1, wherein said antibody is capable of displacing *S. aureus* bound to an extracellular matrix protein.
12. An isolated antibody according to Claim 1, wherein said antibody is capable of displacing *S. aureus* bound to collagen.
13. A diagnostic kit comprising an antibody according to Claim 1 and means for detecting binding by than antibody.
14. A pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing an infection of *S. aureus* or *S. epidermidis* comprising an effective amount of the antibody of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, carrier or excipient.

15. A method of treating or preventing an infection of *S. aureus* or *S. epidermidis* comprising administering to a human or animal patient an effective amount of an antibody according to Claim 1.
16. A method of displacing *S. aureus* or *S. epidermidis* bound to collagen comprising administering to a human or animal patient an effective amount of an antibody according to Claim 1.
17. A method of inducing an immunological response comprising administering to a patient an isolated *S. aureus* CNA19 peptide.
18. A method of identifying antibodies capable of displacing bacteria bound to surface proteins on the extracellular matrix comprising the steps of labeling one or more surface proteins of the extracellular matrix, combining said labeled surface proteins with bacteria known to be capable of binding to said surface proteins for a time sufficient to ensure that said bacteria will bind to said labeled surface proteins, harvesting the bacteria bound to said labeled surface proteins, introducing antibodies suspected of having displacement activity to the bacteria bound to said labeled surface proteins, and identifying those antibodies which cause the displacement of the bacteria from the labeled surface proteins.
19. A method according to Claim 18 wherein the surface protein is collagen.

20. A method according to Claim 18 wherein an antibody is isolated which has the ability to displace *S. aureus* from host cells.
21. A method according to Claim 18 wherein the surface protein is immobilized on a solid carrier.
22. An isolated displacing antibody produced by the method of Claim 18.
23. An isolated cross-reactive antibody that is generated against region 151-318 of the collagen binding domain of the *S. aureus* CNA protein.
24. An antibody according to Claim 21 wherein said antibody is capable of inhibiting *S. aureus* bacteria from binding to a collagen binding site.
25. An antibody according to Claim 21 wherein said antibody is capable of inhibiting *S. epidermidis* bacteria from binding to a collagen binding site.
26. Isolated antisera containing an antibody according to Claim 1.
27. A method of identifying antibodies capable of displacing bacteria that can attach themselves to specific proteins comprising the steps of labeling one or more

proteins that are known to be bound by bacteria, combining said labeled proteins with bacteria known to be capable of binding to said proteins for a time sufficient to ensure that said bacteria will bind to said labeled surface proteins, harvesting the bacteria bound to said labeled proteins, introducing antibodies suspected of having displacement activity to the bacteria bound to said labeled proteins, and identifying those antibodies which cause the displacement of the bacteria from said proteins.

28. An isolated displacing antibody produced by the method of Claim 27.
29. A diagnostic kit for immunodetection comprising, in a suitable container, an antibody according to Claim 1 and an immunodetection reagent.
30. A diagnostic kit according to Claim 29 wherein said immunodetection reagent is a detectable label that is linked to said antibody.
31. An isolated monoclonal antibody raised against the CNA protein from *S. aureus*.
32. Isolated antisera containing an antibody according to Claim 31.